The details of quantity & value of each of the agricultural products and the countries to which exported during the last three years are available in monthly/annual number of foreign trade statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to encourage the exports of agro products include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old plantations, area expansion, improving productivity and training of farmers.
2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.
3. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
4. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.
5. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination & ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.

Closure of medium and large industries

1455. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of closure is increasing in medium and large industries;

(b) the number of such industries closed or referred to BIFR and work force involved therein and also the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of closure over ancillaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Labour Bureau, Shimla, under the Ministry of Labour collects information on industrial closure. Industrial units reported closed under Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and number of workers affected during the years 1997 to 1999 are as below:

Year	Number of units closed	Number of workers affected
1997	154	12,944
1998	175	13,386
1999	144	15,255

According to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), there has been a gradual increase in the number of sick industrial companies registered with BIFR. 1544 companies have been registered during the period 1995 to 2000 (upto 30.09.2000) with BIFR under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. Year-wise break-up is given below:-

Year	Number of companies registered
1995	115
1996	97
1997	233
1998	370
1999	413
2000 (upto 30.09.2000)	316
TOTAL:	1,544

8,06,767 workers were reportedly employed in these companies at the time of registration. During this period, 490 companies in which 1,95,504 workers were reported to be employed at the time of registration, have been recommended for winding up to the concerned High Courts.

According to the BIFR, major reasons for sickness include:-

— managerial problems

— production and technical problems

— marketing problems

— financial problems

Ancillaries attached to large industries facing closure or referred to BIFR, have also been adversely affected. Many of them, by virtue of being flexible in nature, quickly adapt to new situations. As such, the impact of the incidence of closure of large industries on the ancillary units is not uniform in the country